(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests are along implementing various schemes for conservation of Medicinal Plants. A Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to Coordinate activities relating to Conservation etc. and drawing up schemes for funding conservational programmes.

News-Item, "chalk powder as life saver"

3506. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Chalk Powder as life saver, which appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 6th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government or proposed to be taken in this regard, particularly against suppliers of spurious drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of the problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. Since this is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by the enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs in the interstate commerce. The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the State drugs controller to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:—

(i) Constitution and reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry associations as well as consumer associations should find representation.

(ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(iii) To provide training to selected officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work prosecution etc. in respect of spurious counterfeit drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own State level drug testing facilities.

(v) State Drugs Control Authorities should be cautious while approving licenses for drug product to ensure that look-alike products are not encouraged.

(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake Surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) Programme.

In addition the following steps have been taken:

1. Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary intiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.
2. The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held on 12th and 13th July, 2001 in New Delhi.
3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from industry, trade, drug regulatory officials and public representative to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures. Meetings of the Committee were held on Oct. 25, 2001 and March 14, 2002 and various underlying issues concerning manufacture and sale of spurious drugs in the country were examined.

Survey on health

3507. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey through National Health Organisations about the health of the people;

(b) whether International Institute of Population Science has published that many of the developed States including Maharashtra have not cared for the health of the people even though there is scope to improve; and

(c) Government's reaction to the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In 1998-99 the National Family Health Survey was conducted at all India level by reputed institutions in the country covering 25 States and NCT of Delhi with International Institute